

Message Text

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46

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEAE-00 SS-15

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /086 W

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R 031630Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1397

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3762

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, AR, BR

SUBJECT: ATOMIC ENERGY CHIEF DENIES ARGENTINA WILL
DEVELOP WEAPONS CAPABILITY

1. CAPT. PEDRO IRAOLAGOITIA (RET.) HEAD OF THE NATIONAL
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION (CNEA) STATED IN A REPORT RELEASED BY
THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY ON MAY 28 THAT ARGENTINA HAS NO PLANS
AND IS NOT IN CONDITION TO DEVELOP AN ATOMIC BOMB. HE FURTHER
THATED THAT SPECULATION TO THE CONTRARY CAUSED ENORMOUS DAMAGE
TO THE COUNTRY AND CREATED RESISTANCE IN OTHER P TIONS TO

LENDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ARGENTINA. HE HADDED THAT THERE
HAVE BEEN SEVERAL REPORTS ESPECIALLY FROM THE U.S. WHICH OVER-
ESTIMATE ARGENTINE CAPACITY AND POTENTIAL IN THIS AREA.

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JUST AFTER STATEMENT APPEARED,
FONMIN OFFICIALS MAINTAINED THAT IRAOLAGOITIA'S REMARKS REPRESENTED
NOTHING NEW; RATHER THEY SIMPLY REITERATED WHAT HAS ALL
ALONG BEEN GOA'S POSITION. THESE OFFICIALS INSISTED, AS THEY
HAVE IN THE PAST, THAT THE ONLY REASON ARGENTINA WOULD DEVELOP
THE BOMB WOULD BE IN RESPONSE TO AN ATTEMPT BY BRAZIL TO DO SO.

3. ARGENTINE SUSPICIONS ABOUT AJAZILIAN INTENTIONS, HOWDER,
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WILL NOT BE EASED BY A UPI STORY FROM WASHINGTON CARRIED

HERE JUNE 2 UNDER HEADLINE "BRAZIL NEXT TO JOIN NUCLEAR
WEAPONS CLUB?" IT BEGINS, "BRAZIL ISI, THE VERGE OF RQTTING
IFMM WEST GERMANY THE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION
NEEDED TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, U.S. OFFICIALS SAID
YESTERDAY"

4. EMBASSY ASSUMES UPI STORY IS AN EXAGGERATION AND WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OR AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
CAN PROVIDE WHICH WILL HELP US TO CONVINCE ARGINTINES THAT IT
IS NOT ACCURATE.
MONTLLOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, NUCLEAR CAPABILITIES, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BUENOS03762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750194-0073
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750683/aaaacxuw.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATOMIC ENERGY CHIEF DENIES ARGENTINA WILL DEVELOP WEAPONS CAPABILITY
TAGS: MNUC, PFOR, AR, BR, CNEA, (IRAOLAGOITIA, PEDRO)
To: STATE BRASILIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006